GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:380
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2000
EXPORT GROWTH/TRADE DEFICIT
RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether exports have shown a healthy growth during April-May, 2000;

(b) if so, the total growth of exports during the first three months of current financial year in comparison with the corresponding period of 1999-2000, sector-wise;

(c) whether imports have also shown better performance during the same period and trade deficit to rose to $ 1.1 billion;

(d) if so, the main factors responsible therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to improve the export and reduce import and also to check the trade deficit in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 380 TO E ANSWERED ON 18.8.2000 REGARDING EXPORT GROWTH/TRADE DEFICIT

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per provisional figures from Directorate General of Commercial, Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta export growth during April-June, 2000-2001 is estimated at US $ 10194.34 million which is 27.65% higher as compared to the level of US $ 7986.28 million during April-June, 1999-2000.During the same period, imports increased from US $ 10355.66 million to US $ 13177.09 million showing an increase of 27.25%. Trade deficit for April-June, 2000-2001 is estimated at US $ 2982.75 million as compared with the deficit at US $ 2369.37 million during April-June, 1999- 2000.

As per the latest disaggregated provisional export data available from DGCI&S for the period April, 2000-2001, positive growth has been witnessed in case of rice (14.4%), nuts and seeds (22%), marine products (14.2%), ores and minerals (40.3%), chemicals and related products (18.6%), gems and jewellery (7.5%), engineering goods (47.7%), electronic hardware (16.5%), textiles (8.0%) and carpets (7.7%) etc. Negative growth has been witnessed in case of coffee (-42%), tobacco (-19.6%) and handicrafts (-1.6%) etc.

(d) & (e) Imports are made to meet the essential demands of the domestic industry for raw material, fuels and capital goods. Therefore, the thrust to reduce trade deficit is on export promotion which is a continuous process. Export Promotion Measures are continuously being taken by the Government to increase the exports. These measures include, besides simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in Exim Policy, multilateral and bilateral initiatives and identification of thrust sectors and focus regions to bridge the gap in trade balance.